

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	Gerhard Karl Strauch
Serial No. 10/	Filing Date: December 1, 2003
Title of Application:	Method and Device for Short-Term Thermal-Treatment of Flat Objects

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Preliminary Amendment

Applicant herewith presents its amendment and remarks. Please amend the claims as detailed below.

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) Process for the in particular short-duration thermal treatment of in particular flat objects, such as semiconductor, glass or metal substrates, to or from which heat is supplied or dissipated on both sides, at least partially through heat conduction via a heat-conducting medium, characterized in that the heat-conducting medium used is a mixture of at least two gases with very different thermal conductivities, and the mixture is set individually on the two sides of the substrate (4) in such a manner that the respective surface temperature is time-controlled taking account of the respective heat exchange via thermal radiation.

2. (currently amended) Apparatus for the in particular short-duration thermal treatment of in particular flat objects, such as semiconductor, glass or metal substrates, having temperature-influencing devices (2, 3) disposed on both sides of the substrate surfaces for heat exchange with the substrate (4), which heat exchange takes place at least in part through heat conduction via a heat-conducting medium, characterized in that the heat-conducting medium is a mixture of at least two gases with very different thermal conductivities, and the mixture can be set individually on the two sides of the substrate.